THE MIRROVR OF COMPLEMENTS.

OR:

A pleasant and profitable Academy, for all such as have occasion to frequent the Court, or to converse with persons of worth and quality.

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To the Reader.

READer, thou canst not deny but Eloquence is one of the principall ornaments of man, for to have a genuine and subtile spirit, want this Iewell, which in all occasions would give it a true and perfect lustre, is to resemble the extremities of *Prometheus*, who made a faire and curious Statue, but it wanted life and motion, and could not be quickned but by fire from

heaven. It is Eloquence which quickneth our diſcourſe, it gives a grace and glory to our actions, it makes us fit for company, it preferres us unto ſuch eſteeme, as becomes the generous indeavours of each vertuous ſpirit: without this part, wee are like ſenceleſſe rockes and ſtones: all our actions languiſh, our words are not effectuall, our conceits are fruitleſſe, and we are tedious even to thoſe whom we moſt uſually frequent. In this ſmall abridgement, thou haſt the meanes and order to obtaine this gemme eſteem'd ſo precious, not onely by way of diſcourſe, but alſo by familiar writing to perſons of ſeverall

verall qualities, in ſundry complemental letters, whoſe luſtre will expell thoſe clouds which uſually obſcure ſome ſpirits in a ſilent dulneſſe: This is the practice of the Court amongſt great Princes, where the every ſeverall poſture, yea the words of leaſt importance are precogitate. Make thy profit of the preſent, and attend the future.

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The

THE MIRROVR OF COMPLEMENTS.

To offer service to a King.

SIR,

IF words were able to expresse the duty in which I hold my selfe obliged to present you my most humble ser-

vice, I were moſt ingratefull and unworthy of the light of heaven, for ſince you captivate the glory of the greateſt Emperours upon earth, I ſhould much forget my ſelfe, if I thought my vowes alone ſufficient to deſerve the favour of your moſt princely grace; in which the greateſt Monarchs of the world indevour to continue. Pardon then that fervent zeale which compels your ſubiects to ſuch acknowledgement as is due unto your Majeſtie. And let me ſpeake it with permiſſion, that the greateſt honour I can poſſibly attain, is to dye worthily in ſome action of your ſervice.

SIR:

HEaven hath his *Iove*; the Gods, the Sunne and the ſtarres,

Starres, but your vertues are so universally adored of the people, that you fill the gods with jealousie and emulation, and so long as your Majesty shal continue in this world, the earth shal have possession of that glory wherewith she may compare with heaven. I adde nothing to this truth, but the due presentment of my most humble service, nor would I wish for any thing, but a fit occasion to maintain it with the perill of my life and bloud.

SIR:

I have bin a long time possest with this desire to prostrate my selfe at the feet of your sacred Majestie, to tender you my vowes, and I shall account this the most fortunate occasion, that ever I could be blest

with, hoping ſo much alſo in the affection which you beare to vertue, that you wil daigne to accept the offers of my moſt humble ſervice. And permit me with due reverence to affirm it, that the heavens could not have done me more injuſtice, than in ordaining my nativity under any other influence than this of yours, which is the onely age that juſtly can be ſtiled happy, ſince the beginning of this Monarchy.

SIR:

IF the vertues of our anceſtors were in your juriſdiction at this preſent, and that to obtaine the gracious favor of a ſoveraigne, it were onely requiſite to be deſcended from a noble and a generous extraction, I ſhould be more confident

to

to offer you that resolution & experience, which nature and my industry have conferred upon mee: for my father bestowed his youth, and to his death continued (nor sought he for retirement) in the service of your predecessors; and the vertues of my ancestours are eminent in all those places where the Sunne imparts his lustre: notwithstanding I hope these offers of my most humble service shall not bee unpleasing, seeing that I trace the steps of my predecessours, and that I would not live but in the quality of your most faithfull humble subject.

To

To offer service to the Queene.

MADAM:

VVIth permission from the King, and this of your Majestie, I assume the boldnesse to present you with my humble duty, & to expresse my selfe, that there is nothing in the world which I desire with more vehemency than to be your most humble & most faithfull servant and subject.

MADAM:

THe honour which I received this day in kneeling before the King, would yet appeare but lame, and not fully perfected, if I had not this happy occasion to present my vows unto your Majestie, and

to tender you my moſt humble and moſt affectionate ſervices, which I ſhall eſteeme in the higheſt degree of honour that I can poſſibly attaine.

To give due reſpect unto a Noble man.

MY Lord, as I eſteeme it a great favour to have the happineſſe to ſalute you, and to doe my duty to your honour; ſo ſhall I alwayes account my ſelf moſt happy, if it may pleaſe you to accept me for your Lordſhips moſt humble and moſt obedient ſervant.

My Lord, the place you hold amongſt great Princes, & thoſe noble vertues where-

with you are ſo perfectly adorned, oblige me to make offer of that little which is in mee; that in all occaſions I may bee able to render you moſt humble ſervice.

My Lord, it may pleaſe your excellence to permit this humble expreſſion of my due reſpects, hoping that heaven will bleſſe me with ſome favorable opportunity, wherein I may more effectually manifeſt how much my ſoule doth thirſt tó doe you ſervice.

To salute a Gentlewoman with an intention of marriage, and to offer her his service.

ALEANDER.

GEntlewoman, I doubt not but you will repute my addresses both too bold & too presumptuous, but I hope your heart is as full of bounty, as your eyes of beauty, and will not be unapt to pardon that resolution which (proceeding from my love) hath incouraged mee to come and offer you my most humble and most affectionate service.

CLARINDA.

SIR, *I am sorry that I have not had the honour to know you sooner, and I wonder that*

you offer ſervice to a perſon that is ſo unworthy of it.

Miſtriſſe, it is the excellency of your diſpoſition that makes you ſpeake ſo.

Excuſe me Sir, for truth commands my tongue to uſe this phraſe.

Miſtreſſe, I ſee ſo many noble and modeſt vertues expreſſed in your courteſie, as perſwade my affectionate hope, that my intentions ſhall be acceptable, and that in time I may attaine to ſomething in your good favor.

Sir, if I had any good favour in me, it ſhould be wholly at your diſpoſe, but having none, you cannot hope for any.

Miſtreſſe, you haue ſo many graceſull beauties, that I ſhould be moſt happy to poſſeſſe and to inioy them. And I ſhould

be

be much preferred in my own esteeme, if I had the favour to be affected by you, as much as I love and favour you.

When I condiscend to your affection, it must bee so disposed, that it exceed not the termes of civill honesty.

This it is which makes mee honour you more dearely, and makes you stil more lovely: and I beseech you to beleeve it, that my intentions have beene alwayes holy, and that I never aimed but at honest ends. What! did you thinke otherwise; and that I had pretended something that might bee prejudiciall to your honour? No, I wish my heart may bee deprived of life, before it shall give place to such a villanous designe. No, I intend for ever to conti-

nue

nue your faithful and moſt obedient ſervant, as mine indeavors ſhall expreſſe mee in all occaſions wherein I ſhall be imployed by the honour of your commands.

Sir, my affection ſhall bee the pledge of that gratitude wherewith I thanke you for this and all your other undeſerved favors; I am your humble ſervant.

Miſtreſſe, it is I who am ſo much obliged to you, that I want all meanes to requite it, and therefore Miſtreſſe I beſeech you and conjure you likewiſe, that I may obey you in all things where you ſhall thinke me capable to do you ſervice: in the interim after a thouſand recommends, I humbly take my leave of you, leaving with you my heart for a pledge of my fidelity and aſſured conſtancy.

Fare

Fare you well good Sir, I thanke you with all my heart for your kinde visit.

I hope to see you againe, and that ere long, if I may with your permission.

Sir, while your requests are civill, and your intentions honest, you shall alwayes find these dores opē both to you & to your friends who shall be ever welcome to the best entertainment that our poore abilities will permit, and therefore you may come at all times when you please.

Mistresse, I assure you that in going hence I deprive my selfe of a most faire day, to be imprisoned in such horrible darknesse as I know not to expresse. For I protest, that without you, I have neither day nor light, and therfore the time of this sad absence will be so grievous to me, that

that each moment will seeme an houre, each houre a day, and every day an age, if I bee not cherished with my hope to bee in your good graces; and therewith I shall resolve to be patient.

These are excessive phrases, but I hope you are not so passionat as you pretend. Farewell Sir, wee shall see you some other time.

Mistresse, in this you both injure your owne most excellent beauty, and my most faithfull affection; but I hope time shall give you a more perfect view both of mee and it, since necessitie doth now force mee to leave you; yet I shal never leave that affection which your fayre eyes have cast upon my soule. Adieu sweet Mistresse till I see you againe, which

which shall be as soone as I can possibly.

At the Review.

ALEANDER,

I Protest unto you my faireſt Miſtreſſe, I never beleeved the torments of her abſence whom a man affecteth to be ſo piercing and ſo cruell; for I ſweare to your faire eyes, the true ſtars of my fortune, that I died of impatience to ſee you againe.

CLARINDA.

Is it poſſible? Sir, I cannot credit it.

Miſtreſſe, beleeve it, I beſeech you, if it pleaſe you, for I aſſure you that I could not any longer ſupport the extremity of that Anguiſh which I ſuffe-

re I

red during my tedious exile frō you the ſweeteſt object of my indeard affections, wherein my ſoule receives ſuch full contentment.

Sir, all this may bee Sir, for your words ſeeme to import great paſſion.

Miſtreſſe, I proteſt unto you, I am not capable of any contentment in this world, ſaving that which pleaſeth my affections, either in the viſuall or intelectual view of your moſt gracefull beauties.

Sir, I know my ſelfe unworthy of theſe attributes, and therefore though I take them as in jeſt, yet if you perſiſt, I ſhall thinke you uſe them in deriſion.

And why (ſweet creature) have you that conceit? I aſſure you I ſpeake it from my ſoule. And aſſure your ſelfe, my dea-

reſt

reſt Miſtreſſe, that you now behold a man that is intirely yours and one that deſireth not to live, except onely for yo ur ſervice. But that which breeds my greateſt difficulty, is, that I muſt beſome while abſent from you to diſpoſe of ſome affaires of great importance, And I beſeech you to beleeve, that whereſoever I ſhall go, I ſhal alwayes carry in my ſoule the lively image of your perfections, and that I ſhall not live, but by the Idea of yonr faire eyes, with a perfect reſolution to obey you in all occaſions: Adue ſweet Miſtreſſe till I ſee you againe, and I pray you excuſe me that I can no longer wait of you.

Sir, I give you infinite thanks, farewell till another time.

To offer ſervice, therby to give occaſion of a correſpondent amity with ſome ſtranger.

ALEANDER.

SIR:

ALthough I have not merited the honour which I have to ſee you, & to kiſſe your hands with a moſt cordiall and abſolute affection; yet that earneſt deſire which I have to bee accepted into your acquaintãce, and admitted to your friendſhip, hath given mee the boldneſſe to preſent my ſelfe before you, to receive the honour of your commandements, and to offer you the indeavours of my ſervice.

CLO-

CLORIMAN.

Sir, I t is a great contentment to me, to see the good affection which you beare mee, and I am much obliged unto you for the paine which you have taken to come and see mee; assuring you, you can never goe to any place where you are more truely welcome, or where you have more power.

Sir, the desire I had to see you, & to bee acquainted with you, put mee in resolution to come hither, and offer you my most humble service, with this humble suit, that you will bee pleased to accept it.

Sir, you oblige mee infinitely, and I am very glad to see you, but more to understand your good affection to mee. And though I am unworthy of it, yet I beseech you to continue it, assuring

ring you of my part, you shall find me a most faithfull friend, and I hold my selfe much honoured in your amitie, which I accept with a most thankfull heart; and I am onely sorry for the trouble you have had in my occasion.

That which you call a trouble, is to me Sir, a great contétment; for I am alwaies best pleased when I have the happinesse to see men of your quality and merit, and most especially, when they honour mee with their friendship.

Sir, you do mee too much honour, and oblige me to be wholly yours; so that I shall alwayes endeavour to manifest the effects of what I speake; and time shall let you see, that you have not a friend more assured, than I shall labour to approve my selfe.

To thanke a friend for ſome Courteſie.

SIr, I thanke you a thouſand times for the great paynes you have taken for me, hoping that heaven wil grant me ſome happy occaſion whereby I may returne you ſome good ſervice, for a recompence. I ſhall ever bee obliged unto you for this ample and actuall expreſſion of your love in this urgent occaſion, for which I am much indebted to you.

Sir, this is the leaſt that I could doe for you, it is not worthy your remembrance. I would doe more than this a thouſand times for your contentment; for this is nothing in reſpect of my deſires to ſerve you.

Ahlas Sir! I have already had

ſo

ſo many large expreſſions of your exceſſive courteſies, and you have ſo much obliged mee unto you, that I want abilities to ſatisfie ſo great a debt. But in lieu of recompence, I beſeech you to command mee where you finde mee capable to ſerve you.

Sir, you ſhall ever finde mee a true obſervant of the rules of friendſhip, doe you onely continue your affection, and then aſſure your ſelfe you may command my ſervice. For your good deeds doe very much exceed all that I have done, that I do, or can do for you. But though I am not ſtrong in power, yet I ſhall ever have a ſtrong deſire to do you ſome good ſervice.

Sir, my good deeds towards you have bin ſuch poore things, that I need not labor to anſwer

you

you upon ſo meane a ſubiect, but if I can, I ſhall bee alwaies glad to ſerve you.

Sir by this meanes ſtill you increaſe my obligations, and therefore howſoever, if I cannot have the opportunitie to paie you, yet I beſeech God to reward you for mee.

To goe to viſite and ſalute a friend upon his new arrivall after ſome iourney.

SIr, ſo ſoone as I knew of your much deſired return, I could not omit the office of a friend in comming to ſalute you, & to continue the offer of my humble ſervice which is ever at your diſpoſe.

Sir, I am very humbly yours; but I am infinitelie ſorrie, that you have hindered mee of the

honour

hon ur to come and ſee you firſt, for ſo I intended, as ſoone as I had refreſhed my ſelfe a little, for I am but newly alighted.

Sir, I ſhould have been very ſorry if you had troubled your ſelfe to come to me; and I was therefore deſirous to prevent you by beeing here as ſoone as I underſtood of your arrivall.

Sir, you oblige me abundantly to thanke you for the paines you have taken to come hither. But it belonged to me to render you that office.

You ſhould not uſe theſe termes to the pooreſt of your ſervants, and one that hath nothing to preſent you but the duties of his obedience.

O good Sir, it is for me to obey your commandements, for you honour mee a hundred thouſand times beyond my merit.

Let

Let us leave this discourse, I beseech you Sir, for you know very well, that I am wholly yours. But tell mee, I pray you how have you had your health this long journey.

The best in the World, thanks be to God Sir, onely at N. I was a little troubled with a fit of a Feaver, but it was quickely gone.

I beleeve you may well bee weary; for your journey was both very long and toylesome.

Excuse me, Sir, I am no whit weary, for my horse travelled very easily, ambled altogether.

I am glad with all my heart, of your pleasant voyage, and yet much gladder of your happy return; but if it please you I shall assume the boldnesse to demand some news of you, how goe all things there, is there any news?

I can assure you there is none there but good, all is well there, onely they feare, and that with great likelihood, they shall have great warres this summer.

How, doe they talke of wars say they?

Yes, for the King of N. demands aid of his allies, but what the event will bee, is yet uncertaine.

I thinke that Countrey will never bee in peace, there's nothing but warres there continually.

Indeed Sir at this time it is so, but I shall tell you more another time when I have leisure, now onely I desire your favor that I may repose a little.

To entertaine a friend that comes to visit us.

YOu are very welcome, good Sir, you honour me a thousand times above my merit, especially from your particular.

Pardon mee Sir, it is I that have received the honour.

It is the exceſſe of your good nature makes you uſe that phraſe proceeding from that goodneſſe which is native in you.

Sir, my indeavors ſhall bee as witneſſes to give a faithfull teſtimony of the love I beare you.

Sir, you oblige me too much, I have not merited theſe favors from you.

Sir, this is but part of my reſpect, for I owe you much more in things of greater conſequence.

Sir, there is no need that you ſhould uſe theſe termes to your obliged ſervants.

Sir, it is ſo defective in that part, that I ſtãd both obliged both to you & all my other friends.

Sir, I wiſh to ſerve you in all that I am able, and I ſhould more willingly expreſſe it in action than in ſpeech.

Sir, you have already expreſſed it very amply, and I were worthy to be thought ingratefull if ever I ſhould faile to make acknowledgement that I am much beholding to you.

You ſhall excuſe me, Sir, if it pleaſe you, for I never gave you cauſe to ſay you are beholding to mee, nor was there ever any ſuch occaſion, but it pleaſes you to ſpeake this out of the bounty of your ſpirit.

Sir, it is the debt it ſelf, which exacteth

exacteth theſe words, that I may confeſſe my ſelfe to bee wholly yours.

I ſee that you will conquer me with courteſie, but if it pleaſe you to ſit, wee ſhall diſcourſe more at leiſure.

I thanke you ſir, it needs not; beſides, it were undecent for mee to be firſt in place, but if it pleaſe you to ſit, I ſhall keepe you company.

Then I pray you ſit you there

It ſhall be then to obey you.

Sir I am your ſervant.

Sir, it is I that am yours, and the moſt affectionate of all your ſervants.

Sir, ſhal it not be offenſive if I make bold to aske you what good wind brought you hither?

Chiefely ſir to have the honor to ſee you, and to know the diſpoſition of your health, and then

to kisse your hands; lastly, to beseech you to impart what good newes you heare from London.

There is no newes there, only the King is gone to *Hampton* Court.

When one meeteth a friend in the street by accident.

GOod morrow to you Sir, this meeting makes mee happy above my expectation, tel me how you doe?

Very well thankes bee to God, and alwaies most humbly ready to doe you service.

I am yours with all my heart

In good faith Sir, it troubleth me extreamely that I had not the honour to see you, and I know not what to thinke of it, nor upon what occasion.

Sir,

Sir, I assure you I have beene at your lodging many times, & I know not if they told you or not, but I could never have the happinesse to finde you within.

And that is strange, for I stir abroad as little as may be. But what newes heare you? any thats good?

No truly Sir, I heare none at all, onely Mr. *N.* told mee just now, that *N.* and *N.* were somwhat contentious yester night, and were like to have fought after some high words and injurious speeches.

Verily you have a good memory to retaine all these circumstances, but is it very certaine?

I have told you my Author, if he be a lyer, I shal discredit him

But it is a common phrase, that a lyar ought to have a good memory to keepe him from mistaking,

king, and inable him to defend both the right side and the left.

You reckon me in the number then sir, you have commended mine so much.

Pardon me sir, I thought it not, of the contrary I praise you therfore the more, for a good memorie includeth not that vice, but it is rather a guilt of nature which she alloweth not at all, not to me especially, for mine is very fraile. But I like better to have it so, than therewith to abuse the truth, in studying how to circumvent another.

But sir, hee that alledgeth his Author, cannot bee betraied, if so be he prove not false to him. But he dares not, for there was good company with us when he spake it.

Sir, not that I would attempt to injure either your life or honor much

much leſſe your reputation; But I am afraid leſt you be made the Author of it, and that hee may abuſe you authorizing his fable upon the teſtimony of your ſpeeches.

That which you ſpeake Sir, cannot but be good, for to meddle with that which doth not concerne one, it is to be in danger to bee mocked and expoſed to deriſion and reproch; hereafter I ſhal be more ſecret and retentive, & I thank you for your good adviſe; but as for me, I aſſure you it is not my invention. And if he did deviſe it, yet hee ought not to make mee his inſtrument to divulge it, albeit he may have told it to others that ſhall likewiſe tel you the ſame; & howſoever though I am not wel aſſured of the certainty, yet I am certain that he told it mee.

An offer to accompanie a Friend.

SIr, I ſhould willingly offer you my cõpanie, if I thought it worthy your acceptance, and that I ſhould not trouble you.

It is ſo farre from that Sir, that it would be a great honour to me, and a thouſand times more than I deſerve, for ſuch company as yours, cannot but be pleaſant and delightfull to all that love honor and vertue; but I feare leaſt in ſo doing, you will trouble your ſelfe.

Sir, if my poore companie may pleaſure you, I offer it with all my heart, but I feare to importune you.

Alas Sir, you will trouble your ſelfe too much, and for mee

I doe not deſerve it, and therefore I ſhould bee unwilling to permit it.

Pardon mee Sir, this is no trouble, this ! I would I had the happineſſe to be alwaies in your company, if it might be, I ſhould ever account that time well beſtowed, which were ſo imploied.

Sir, you oblige mee too much, trouble not your ſelfe ſo, I beſeech you, ſeeing you have other affaires that import you more than this; I kiſſe your hands with all my heart.

Sir I have no affaires but ſuch as (for my love to you, and to render you the reſpects I owe you) I ſhall willingly diſpenſe with: beſides, your good affection to mee, doth oblige mee much more in a farre greater matter; and therefore I aſſure you

you that I have nothing which can hinder me at this time.

O good Sir, it is I that must be beholding and indebted to you, whiles I live, but I should be sorry to divert you from your more serious affaires, which I feare cannot dispense with you so long as in your courtesie you speake of.

Sir, I will not detain you here any longer: here you Boy, carry those things thither, and in the meane time, sir, with your permission, I will go into the coach

I will not refuse the honour, since it pleaseth you so to conferre it, and that you will go, though I am very unwilling to trouble you yet I will attend you thither.

These Gent. shall oblige mee so much as to keepe you company while I dispatch that businesse.

To

To give a Preſent to a Friend.

SIr, here is a Booke which I would preſent unto you, but I am aſhamed to give you a thing of ſo ſmall value, as is not worthy your acceptance.

Alas Sir! you indeare me too much, you need not entertaine ſuch feares, nor put your ſelfe to ſo much trouble; but I may very well be ſorry, that I can never meet with a good occaſion to returne your favours: I muſt intreat you therefore to excuſe my want of power, and to accept and uſe my ſervice as a poore part of recompence and ſatisfaction.

Sir, doe not (I beſeech you) refuſe it becauſe it is little, for (with all my heart) I wiſh it of

a greater value, that then it might bee more proper to your merit.

Sir, every publique action that is done so freely, should be answered with some expression of respect to those that honour us; but I that am not able at this present to returne you the like courtesie, can onely thanke you for this booke, intending to reade it often for your sake.

Sir, this is a trifle not worthy your remembring, onely I beseech you to reckon mee in the number of your friends, and of your humblest servants.

Sir, I am yours most affectionately, and so I shall indeavour to approve my selfe in all occasions where you shall please to try mee.

Wee need not make tryall of the thing wee doubt not,

and

and for my part I never distrusted the integritie of your affection.

That which I sayd Sir, was onely to assure you of the good will I beare you, and not that I thinke you have any suspition of mee.

Sir, I haue a long time known the sincerity of your intentions, and I beseech you to excuse me, that this present is not correspondent to your merit, & that you will not reflect upon the gift onely, but upon my good will and affection wherewith I offer it.

Sir, I highly esteeme both the one and the other, and therefore I shall rest your debter.

To desire some Courtesie of a Friend.

SIr, I have a suit to you, but the feare I have to be denied, makes mee unwilling to move you in it.

Sir, what is it you desire of mee, Sir? I am ready to doe any thing that may content you, so that it doe not exceed my power.

Sir, if it bee not too troublesome, I shall desire you to make my peace with M.N. for I know you are very powerfull with him.

Sir, you cannot trouble me in any thing in the world, & for this businesse I promise you that I will use my best indeavors to give you all the best satisfaction in it that possibly I can.

Sir,

Sir, being I have never deſerved this favour, you have a juſt cauſe to thinke mee both bold and troubleſome: Onely neceſſity is my warrant, which I hope your courteſie will accept for an excuſe; for indeed ſir, it imports me much in a buſineſſe of great conſequence.

Deare friend, my forces are farre ſhort of my deſire, notwithſtanding I will doe what lieth in mee (by Gods aſſiſtance) to attain your purpoſe.

Ah ſir, your forces are greater than this affaire requires; if it be your pleaſure ſo to uſe thē; and therefore I beſeech you, and conjure you to make tryall.

Sir, to take away all doubt of my good intention, and to ſatiſfie your requeſt, I promiſe you to uſe all my power and credit,

and

and to move him in it when I see him next.

They say that Opportunity hath all her haire upon her forehead, and that wee cannot hold her when shee is past us, because shee is bald behind, and in this occasion especially I fear the danger of delay.

Doe you not know that there was one who by one only demurre reduced the Common-wealth of Rome into a quiet government.

Yes very well Sir, but wee neither live in that time nor place, nor is this businesse of that nature, and though hee by lingring did save his Countrey from that fearefull ruine which threatned it, yet there hath beene an infinite number who have lost whole Kingdomes by negligent omitting of good oppor-

opportunities. And this affaire beeing ſo different from that, both in it ſelfe, and in the qualitie of the perſons, requireth likewiſe another maner of proceeding.

It is ſoone enough, if well enough, I will goe about it immedialy, I meane, to ſheake with your man, and beleeve it in a ſhort time you ſhall ſee the effect. Farewell till I ſee you next, and bee confident of mee.

To invite a Friend to Dinner.

SIr, you ſhall oblige mee very much if you will doe mee the honour to come and take a poore dinner with me.

I thank you with all my heart, I have not merited the favour of your courteſie, but I pray you excuſe mee for this time.

Why ſir, you ſhall doe mee a great favor if it pleaſe you, and for a requitall I ſhall ſerve you in al things where it may pleaſe you to imploy me.

Sir, you are too courteous and perſwaſive to bee refuſed, and therefore I ſhall trouble you.

You cannot ſir, but you will doe mee a greater honour in it, than I know how to deſerve.

Sir, uſe me as your ſervant, I beſeech you, for I doe not affect ceremonies.

Truly ſir, it is not becauſe I have any thing to dinner, that is worth your tarrying: but there is no remedy, you muſt a little exerciſe your patience with me,

as a teſtimonie of your love.

If all that are inioyned to abſtinence, were well aſſured of the like ſufferings, their penance would be very ſweet and pleaſing. This is an exceſſe of favor which you do me, therefore I pray you pardon me if I prove troubleſome.

There needs no pardon where there is no offence, and I tel you that you cannot trouble your ſervants, and thoſe that eſteeme you equall with their lives. But I muſt rather aske you pardon for having ſtayed you here to ſuch poore entertainment. Nevertheleſſe you have it with a good heart

You have honored me too much, but to requite you I ſhall alwaies and in all occaſions labor to manifeſt (if my ability concurre with my good deſires) that I will very

very freely both use mine own indeavours and my friends to doe you service.

At sitting downe to the Table.

THere then Sir, I beseech you sit.

After you Sir, if it please you

No Sir, I pray you Sir.

No I protest, Sir, if it please you, you shall shew mee the way.

Well Sir, it shall bee then to obey you, since you will have it so.

Reason will have it so sir, but here is a great deale of good meat more than needed, you know excesse is forbidden.

Feare it not Sir, what wee leave

leave will not bee loſt, here are people enow in this houſe to take an order with it, and therefore we need not to thinke of it, nor uſe ſo many Complements in a houſe that is wholly at your diſpoſe.

But let us drinke I pray you, for good wine warmes the bloud.

I thanke you Sir, with your leave I will be bold to drinke to your good health, and to drinke a whole one.

Sir, *I thanke you heartily, & after that I will drinke a health to his Majeſty, hoping you wil do the like.*

Moſt willingly Sir, I pray God preſerve him, and us alſo.

Sir, *to the good ſucceſſe of your journey, and I beſeech the divine bountie to bleſſe it, and to*

haſten

haſten your returne, that we may quickly meet and be merry together in perfect health, and ſo I drinke to you.

Sir, I ſhall anſwer you with the like weapons; to your good health.

Other Complements at ſitting downe to the Table.

To the invited.

ALEANDER.

COme my Maſters, pleaſe it you that wee waſh our hands?

The invited.

After you Sir, if it pleaſe you.

ALEANDER.

Leave Ceremonies, for I cannot

not abide them. Let us wash, if it please you.

The invited.

Sir, they are not Ceremonies when a civill and a due respect commands them. You shall be first if it please you.

ALEANDER.

Well, well, seeing you will not be ruled, let us wash together.

The invited.

Sir, it should not be so, but your desire hath all authoritie upon us.

ALEANDER.

And what, my masters, will you not please to sit?

The invited.

It shall be after you sir, if it please you, and seeing it appertaineth to you in right and equity, these ceremonies are needlesse.

Aleander.

Wel Gentlemen, to give you content, I will sit here.

The invited.

Sir, you shall advance your selfe if it pleuse you.

Aleand.

Master *N.* you shall sit there if you please, for that is your place appointed.

N.

You make me much ashamed Sir, of the excessive honor which you doe mee.

Aleand,

The cleane contrary way Sir, I do not tender it according to your merit, for one cannot attribute too much honor to men of your ranke and quality.

The invited.

Sir, I beleeve you mocke mee when you use these termes so far above

above my desert, for you know Complements are frivolous among frends, as you and I have bin this many a day.

Aleander.

One cannot honour you enough againe. I repeat it.

The invited.

It is all to the contrary by your favour, for you cannot doe so little as will not be too much.

Aleander.

Goe too, let us eat I pray you, what are we here for? shall I carve to you?

To entertaine a friend at the Table.

SIr, I must desire your patience that you are so sorrily entertained.

Oh, good sir, it cannot bee amisse with mee in your company, but rather a thousand times better than I deserve.

I am sorry wee knew no sooner of your comming, for then we had been better prepared, and whereas now we have nothing but ordinary, and all because you tooke us unprovided, but there is no remedy, I pray you take such as there is in good part as if there were more and better.

The good will and the deed are both apparant, but what would

you

you more ? for my part I would not wiſh to be better.

Howſoever let us be merry and cheerfull, though wee have not wherewithall.

Sir, I know no cauſe you have to ſay ſo, for I have not ſeene a table better furniſhed, nor meat better ordered, what would you wiſh for more? as for mee, I need no urging, I goe well enough without a ſpur.

There is nothing heere but what is common; ſo it hath pleaſed God that thoſe things which are needfull are eaſie to be had: and ſo likewiſe hee hath provided that thoſe things which are not eaſily gotten are not ſo neceſſary; pleaſe it you that I cut you ſome capon; but let us drink firſt.

The Maſter of the feaſt his excuſe to his friends after dinner or ſupper.

Maſter.

GEntlemen, now I crave pardon for having ſtayed you here to ſuch poore entertainement; verily I ſhould be much aſhamed of it, if I were not confident of your love and courteſie, wherein I hope you will excuſe my errour, and impute it to the great contentment which I receive in your good company.

The invited.

Sir, you have prevented us in diſcharging that account which more

more properly belonged to us, for we ought to have taken hold of the first occasion to give you thanks for the good welcome and the good cheere you have made us. But the heart shall be ingaged for the tongue, and shall alwayes make you such actuall expressions of his remembrance by the effects, as hee shall bee permitted or invited by a fit occasion.

Master.

My Masters recreation is very good after meales, will it please you then to take a turne in the garden.

The invited.

The company likes well of any thing that shall please you Sir, but perhaps it will be a trouble to you.

Maſter.

It cannot trouble me, for at this time I have no ſuch important buſineſſe, beſides I cannot have any trouble in this companie, but rather all pleaſure and contentment; Let us goe then Sirs, if it pleaſe you, for I uſe not to lead my friends out of dores, but rather into the houſe.

The invited.

It ſhall bee then to obey you ſir, ſince you will have it ſo.

Maſter.

And now M.N. what t hinke you of this Garden, is it pleaſant?

The invited.

It is a very large one, and well made;

made; it wants nothing but water to keep him fresh.

Master.

There is water yonder above, and when there is occasion, wee let it run downe; it comes from that adioyning rocke.

The invited.

See here a very fine convenience, which I perceived not till now; but is this water also good to drinke?

Master.

Most excellent good, it's cold in summer, and warme in Winter: and besides that, it is farre lighter than any that wee have in all these parts.

The invited.

That is it which the Physiti-

ans commend ſo above all others, and according to the Proverbe, Good corn is heavy, and good water light.

Maſter.

The way to the ſpring is ſomwhat ſlippery and ill-favoured; but one cannot have al commodities in one place.

The invited.

That is true Sir, and yet every one cannot have ſuch as you have God keep you in good proſperity; and ſo taking our leaves of you, wee recommend our ſelves to your good grace.

To

To take leave of ones friends at parting from some place.

SIr, now is the time that calls to my departure, and therefore by your favour, I come to take my leave of you.

Sir, I thanke you very humbly, and I desire but one thing of you, that is to forget the grosse welcome you have had here.

Sir, you shall pardon mee if it please you, for I shall never agree with you in that, For you have done me a thousand times more honour than ever I deserved of you.

It is I Sir that am to thanke you for the paines you have taken to come and see mee; But I hope ere long God will give mee

leave

leave to requite it.

Sir, whensoever it shal please you to do me that favour as to come to see me, you will oblige me very much, and I shal indeavor to make you welcome, not so well as you deserve, but as wel as my poore power cã possibly attaine to.

Well then sir, I recommend my selfe to your good graces.

And I mee to yours, which are much better, I will not bid you farewell, for I verily intend to come and see you one of these mornings, when you shall least dreame of it.

I dare you to it, and assure you you cannot come so soone as I desire, but I doubt me you will not oblige me so much.

Sir, goe no further I beseech you.

I will not leave you here.

You

You are so too-Ceremonious.

Permit mee to doe what belongs to mee, am not I the Master of the house?

Now then goe no further if you will oblige me.

Well sir, since you will have it so, I kisse your hands, and remain your very humble servant.

Footman, my friend, I pray thee commend mee humbly to thy Lady.

Sir, I shall doe it my selfe.

Sir, it will bee too great a trouble to you.

Sir, this is the least part of the service that I owe you, and which I desire to doe for you.

You oblige me too much sir, and for part of recompence, I beseech you serve your self with me where you find me capable.

I am yours Sir, and ſo I take my leave of you without a farewell. becauſe by Gods grace I hope to ſee you againe ſhortly.

To bid a friend farewell that is going a journey, or retiring to his Countrey.

SIr, being conſtrained (by the neceſſity of my affaires) to leave you, *I* cannot but with much griefe, part from you, who have ſo much obliged mee with your noble favours that *I* ſhall ever hold my ſelfe ingaged to render all the ſervices I am able, both to you and yours. I know very well that I have troubled you, and for the preſent, I cannot make you any other ſatisfaction,

ction, than to offer you all that I am, with proteſtation that I am wholly yours, and ſhall bee ſo while I live. Accept then if it pleaſe you, my moſt humble ſalutes, and do mee the favour to honour mee with your commands.

Sir, I am very ſorry, and much troubled for the loſſe which I ſhal have of your good company: howſoever, ſince it is of neceſſity, that this day I muſt ſuſtaine this loſſe, I pray God your departure with us, may be as profitable to you, as I deſire it, & that we may (to comfort us in your abſence) have this ſatisfaction, that you ſhall have more pleaſure and contentment in the places more remote, than if you were neerer to us, and in diſcontent: for I muſt confeſſe wee have not had the meanes to give you that reſpect, which is due unto

to your merits.

Sir, I have had nothing here but all contentment, and a thousand times more favours than ever I deserved from you, & your friends likewise, for which I most humbly thanke you. But to make short, Sir, doth it please you to command mee any thing?

Why Sir, are you ready to go?

Behold sir, there is nothing stayes me, but to receive the honour of your Commandements, and then you shall quickely see me mounted.

Sir, I shall take it as a great happinesse if you will vouchsafe to honour mee with yours.

Sir, I thanke you with all my heart, but I stay here, onely to render that respect which I owe unto your merits.

Sir, I am utterly confounded at

that

that exceſſive honour which you do mee.

Alas Sir, this is the leaſt part of my debt, it is I that have receiued the aduantage.

I thanke you Sir, for the paines you haue taken, if I may ſerue you in requitall, I ſhall do it very gladly.

This is no paines Sir, what is this, I could not doe leſſe at my departure then take my leaue, and giue you thanks for all your fauours.

Sir, therein I am much obliged to you, but as for that, I will not giue the ultimum vale, *or the laſt adieu, for I hope yet wee ſhall haue the happineſſe to ſee you againe one day.*

That ſhall bee as it pleaſeth God, to whoſe good graces I recommend you, and mee to yours.

Sir,

Sir, you ſhall goe no further if it pleaſe you.

Good Sir let me go with you to the next turning, it no further.

Sir, no further I beſeech you. But I am very forgetfull, permit me (with your favour) to bid my Lady Farewell.

An Adieu to a Lady.

Madam, your preſence, & your faire vertues would retaine me here a longer time, did not the neceſſity of my affaires compell me to this unhappy ſeparation, which I muſt make, though moſt unwillingly, and againſt the proper courſe of all my ſtrong deſires. But I will not leave to honour you, whilſt

I liue, with this assurance from my oath (sweet *Madam,*) that whereſoever I become, in mee you ſhall alwaies have a moſt affectionate and faithfull humble ſervant.

Sir, I assure you I am very ſorry for your ſudden departure, which my eyes would witnes with continuall weeping, were I not comforted by the hope I have of your ſafe and quicke returne.

Madã, my further ſtay could but procure your further trouble, and therefore you cannot have any cauſe to grieve at my departure.

Sir, your behaviour and converſation is ſo pleaſant, and your companie ſo honeſt, that I cannot but reſſent the loſſe.

Theſe are yours Madam, which ſo inſenſibly attract the very ſoules of thoſe that know them.

But

to omit the discourse, which though I should continue while I live, I should rather lessen than increase the glory of your merits: for the present I am to take my leave of you, beseeching God to protect you. Adieu sweet *Madam*, I recommend my selfe to your good prayers.

Adieu good Sir, I pray God keepe you, and grant your journey a good successe, and that wee may injoy the benefit to see you returne speedily, merrily, and in good health.

A courteous diſpute about the firſt ſetting out.

NOw Sir, I have diſpatcht my buſineſſe, it reſteth onely that I kiſſe your hands, and take my leave of you. Adieu Sir.

I have told you that I will not part with you here, let us goe then if it pleaſe you.

You ſhall goe firſt then, I pray you, for it belongs to you.

I pray God deliver mee from ſuch an abſurdity, I doe not lead any man out of the houſe.

Ha, let us goe then and exclude ceremonies, I had rather erre in civility than to bee too troubleſome, it ſhall be to obey you.

Sir, I am hee that is your humble

humble ſervant.

Sir, although my body may bee abſent from you, my heart and my deſire ſhall bee alwayes preſent with you; and I beſeech you to beleeve my promiſe, which I give you as an aſſurance; and therewithall I kiſſe your hands and bid you farewell.

Farewell good Sir, God guide you, I pray you forget us not.

To excuſe himſelfe to ſome one and to demand pardon for ſome offence.

Sir, I am very ſorry for the fault wherin I have offended, and I beſeech you that I may taſte, as well the ſweetneſſe of your pardon as the bitterneſſe of my repentance; *I* confeſſe that I forgot my ſelfe very much, & I am amazed to thinke how I could doe it, eſpecially ſince it was ſo wholly oppoſite to my deſigne and purpoſe, which was never otherwiſe than diſpoſed to obey you in all occaſions; but this happened I know not how, whereof I heartily repent mee, and therefore I preſent my ſelfe before you, to render you what ſatisfaction it ſhall pleaſe you

to

to require.

But that is not ſufficient to excuſe ſuch a rude fault as this, which in ſome ſort hath given a great wound to your owne credit; and I adviſe you hereafter, to exempt your ſelfe from ſuch follies, leſt you incurre ſome ſuſpitious cenſure of diſloyalty, & of ingratitude towards your beſt friends.

Sir, doe not (for all that I beſeech you) utterly exclude mee from your favour, leſt you likewiſe iniure the honour of your clemency, & give ſome blemiſh to your courteſie; and which is more, leſt you offend God very highly, who commands us to pardon the faults of others, as freely as we deſire forgiveneſſe of our owne.

Well, ſeeing you come in this manner to acknowledge your error, I will forget it for this time,

upon

upon condition that you doe not increase it by a relapse, for then your fault will admit no excuse nor pardon.

Sir, I hoped for no lesse from the mildenesse of your good disposition; & I promise you will keep such a carefull guard upon all my ensuing actions, that you shall never more have cause to complaine of me.

You shall bee welcome hither at all times, so long as you behave your selfe well and discreetly, and therefore let us see you here more often then we have done of late.

Sir, The fault I had committed, was the cause of my long absence, not presuming to appeare before you, during your indignation; but I hope by Gods assistance to repaire my errour by a better life and conversation, as I desire and resolve with

a firme and constant purpose.

God give you the grace to doe it, and while you walke in that path, I will never leave you; I beseech him to guide you alwaies with his holy spirit, and so adieu to you, and remember to be advised.

Sir, I pray God accomplish you with all felicities, and that he will blesse you with his benefits, as you have obliged me with your liberalities; for I cannot requite them, onely this I assure you, I shall never forget them, and so I humbly take my leave of you, with a thousand recommends to your good graces.

Com-

Complements at a ſecond appointed meeting.

SIr, I have made you ſtay very long, but I pray you pardon me, for I could not come any ſooner.

Sir, *this is ſoone enough, I dranke a cup of wine this morning, to make the time paſſe merrily while I ſtayed for you, and now you are welcome; and I beſeech you to excuſe my boldneſſe in inviting you to ſo poor a dinner, which will not equall your ordinarie: but I have great confidence, that in your good diſpoſition, you know very well how to excuſe this errour, ſeeing that amongſt friends, we eſteeme not ſo much the food for the body, as that contentment which the mind*

conceives in the amitie and familiar converſation which we have one with another, as for mee, you ſee my cuſtome.

Sir, The quality you poſſeſſe, and the amity which is between us, make mee ſo dearely to eſteeme you, that I can never refuſe your company. For there is nothing in the world which I deſire ſo much as the frequent benefit of your pleaſing converſation, as now you ſee I am ſo forward, that you need not call me twice.

I wiſh Sir, inſtead of my poore company, it would pleaſe God to afford ſome occaſion of importance, wherein I might effectually expreſſe, that which I deſire to doe for you.

Sir, I never doubted your good will to me, and therefore I give you many thankes, and I pro-

promiſe you that my intire affection ſhall never faile you in any thing where I am capable to doe you ſervice.

Sir, *Let us leave this diſcourſe I pray you, for I cannot doe any thing that may deſerve that value, but I ſhall ſtill remaine more obliged to you for your regard, having done mee the honour to come to my poore houſe, and afford me the benefit of your good companie.*

Sir, I ſee well by your accounts, that you are not a good Arithmetician, excuſe mee Sir, I pray you, for ſpeaking in this manner, for it is I that have this honour, and I ſhould deſire to enjoy it longer, were it not that my affaires call for my attendance in another place.

Sir, *Being I cannot goe with you any further, by reaſon of theſe*

Gentlemen which expect my company, I beſeech you to excuſe me, and take it in good part that my Man wait of you to your lodging. Ho N. *heare you, goe and wait of this Gentleman to his lodging, and doe not leave him till you ſee him there, and faile not to ſalute my Coſen his wife in my name, and tell her, I ſend her a good night, wiſhing humble recommends.*

When one commends our good Horſe.

SIr you have good Horſe there.

Excuſe me Sir, this is a poore tit of little worth.

Sir, You ſhall pardon me, he is well made, every limbe hath his

his juſt proportion.

In that Sir, I ſhall agree with you, for I bought him for a good one, his head indeed is not amiſſe, and he carries it well enough, he hath a good foot, and a cleane leg, a good eye, a good haire, a good docke, and that well and l ng, and to exceed all this, he is well breathed: and ſuch as he is Sir, he is at your diſpoſe.

Sir, You honor me too much, I have not deſerved it of you, But I am wholly yours, and that with all my heart: Nevertheleſſe I will not refuſe to uſe him when I have occaſion without your trouble, ſeeing this offer proceeds from your good will.

Sir, *You know a friend is another ſelfe, and therefore we ought to have mutuall reſpects one to another.*

Sir, Make tryall of me when

you pleaſe, and you ſhall alwayes find a congruity betweene my words and actions, howſoever I ſhall bee alwayes carefull to performe my promiſe.

Sir, *It is a thing I never doubted, and of my part I aſſure you of the like, for I may boldly ſweare that there is not a man in the whole world hath ſo much power with me as your ſelfe.*

Sir I thanke you for it, I ſhall take the boldneſſe to come and viſit you very often, and to ſee how you doe.

Sir you will oblige mee very much, and when you doe ſo, I ſhall ſay you are my friend indeed.

Sir, I ſhall not faile, and ſo I take my leave of you, becauſe I have a little buſineſſe. Farewell Sir, I am wholly yours.

A

A Diſcourſe of Exerciſes.

SIr, I pray you tell me what is your daily exerciſe, and I ſhall tell you mine.

Sir, I want none, for from eight in the morning, till tenne, I ride the great horſe, and after dinner, I uſe to exerciſe my weapons. But how do you beſtow your time?

I learne to dance, and to play upon the Lute, and I learne French alſo.

Sir, I beleeve your exerciſes are much pleaſanter then mine, but in the meane time they are not ſo uſefull nor ſo profitable, being they ſerve onely for a particular contentment, but mine are uſefull both in publique and in private occaſions in caſe of neceſſity.

You say right Sir, but men of peace doe not desire warre.

Nay Sir, it is not] *that I preferr war before peace, but yet it is good to be provided with defensive weapons.*

That is true Sir, but in the meane time it is not fit for every man to take up armes, for sometimes it is better to suffer patiently, then to be too sudden in revenge.

Sir, That you speake is very true, but who observes it: that tenet is now out of request, which commands us to turne our right cheeke when we are strooke upon the left.

I beleeve it well, that for your part you cannot doe it, for you are too hastie, yet this is the holy Scripture, and I would wish you to consider, wee doe not want examples of it; yet we must

muſt not relye upon examples onely, but chiefly upon Gods Commandements.

Alas Sir, there are very few now adayes, that thinke of it, and if you ſhould ſpeake thus in ſome places, they would take you for a Divine.

That's true, but for all that, it is fit that armes ſhould have their limits as well as other things. A Magiſtrate may uſe them to Gods honour, and the Kings ſervice: But private men being allowed to weare them, muſt not abuſe them, nor you muſt not be offended with me.

It is no part of my intention, for I know this proceeds of your good nature, which wiſheth no hurt to any one, and what wee ſpeake, is but in the way of ſport and merriment.

To

To comfort a friend after the death of some Kinſman.

SIr, I deſire not to renue your griefe, or againe to open thoſe wounds which bleed inwardly already in your heart, for this were an inhumane act, rather then the office of a friend, but the cauſe of my comming is to let you ſee the juſt reſſentment that I have of Maſter *N.* your Couſins death, and I ſweare to you, that troubles me as much as if it were the neareſt of mine owne alliance, for you know we were alwaies very intimate and familiar friends.

Sir, his blond could not deny him, he was the beſt of all my kindred, hee ever beheld mee with a friendly

friendly regard, and hee was a great comfort to mee when hee found me afflicted and troubled in minde, beſides the other favours and aſſiſtances which I received daily.

This indeed I confeſſe Sir may juſtly increaſe our ſorrow, but yet we have reaſon to be glad & praiſe God in this reſpect, ſeeing he dyed a good Chriſtian, and after he was well prepared for his laſt conflict, wherein it often happens, that the moſt aſſured find many difficulties.

It is true Sir, yet in the meane time, you ſee his wife hath a great charge of children, and but little meanes to maintaine them.

Sir, what deſire you more? God will be their eſpeciall Protector, and he never forgets his charge, and you likewiſe for your part will not abandon them,

them, as I assure my selfe in that opinion which I have of your good nature.

Sir, I know very well that I can expect nothing by it but charge and trouble, but that which grieves me, is his absence, and to finde my selfe deprived of his pleasant and familiar conversation, doth incessantly afflict my minde.

Sir, I will agree with you that it is a matter of great difficulty, and almost impossible suddenly to take away the impressions of such a just resentment. Yet in the end we must resolve with holy *Job* to bee patient, saying, God hath given, and God hath taken away, his Name be praised; and since one may doe thus, this is the best way, for all the teares in the world

world cannot prevaile with death.

Sir, it is easie to give comfort to another, when wee our selves are not sensible of the evill, but when wee are to take it, then it is hard of digestion, especially in such accidents as this.

Sir, it cannot bee prevented, and yet you know it is better to dye once for all, then to dye a thousand times by a living kind of death: to lye a long time sicke in bed, languishing of some painefull and grievous malady, as wee see many that in the end are compelled to dye after suffering a thousand deaths.

But Sir, if it had pleased God to let him live but five or sixe yeeres longer, he had laid a good foundation to establish his house, and to provide for the preferment

ment of his children, which are now exposed to the incertaine favours of those friends which shall take charge of them, and I feare that those who have most cause, will bee least carefull to provide for them.

Sir, In such cases as this, where there is no remedy, wee may say as the great Patriarch *Abraham* said to his sonne *Isaac*, God will provide; briefly Sir, you are wise and discreet enough to apprehend such comfort as you thinke most fit. And so I desire your favour to goe and take order for the dispatch of an important businesse.

Sir, I give you many thanks for your paines, and for your friendly visite, whereby I have received great comfort: please you to drinke?

Sir, I thanke you with all my heart,

heart, it needs not at this time, take comfort in God alone, and you ſhall ſee that he will dry up all teares, which might be tollerable in a woman or a child, but in a man of your quality, I can never approve it; excuſe me Sir I pray you. Adieu.

Sir

Complemental Letters.

SIr, I could not omit this opportunity of writing to you, and I was the rather enclined to endeare this Gentleman the bearer to your knowledge, hee will deſerve a great reſpect from you, being my noble friend, and one that is able to doe very good offices. I have many particular obligations to him, and therefore what entertainement you give him, I ſhall account above my perſonall reſpect, and be obliged to requite the favour, when you make me fortunate with the occaſion: in the meane time if you honour mee with the remembrance of my health, I will pray for yours, and reſt,

Your true Friend,
to be commanded.

Anſwer.

SIr, I receiued your letter dated the 13. of Auguſt, which appeared ſtrange, knowing my ſelfe free from the leaſt ſtaine of ingratitude: I haue omitted no opportunity of writing, and if my letters haue miſcarryed, I hope you will not accuſe mee but the misfortune. I ſhould haue cenſured you of much neglect and forgetfulneſſe of friendſhip, for the ſame reaſon, but that you haue thus prevented mee, but the error being found, I am confident there will bee no fraction in our loue hereafter, ſince there is ſo much uncertainety in conueyances. I hope to ſee you ſhortly, and embrace you perſonally, till when cheriſh him in your opinion, who ſhall bee al-

alwayes ſtudious to deſerve the name of,

Your true ſervant.

The Letter to the anſwer above written.

SIr, I cannot but marvell that in all this abſence you have not honoured mee with your letter, when you have not wanted provocation on my part, for upon every opportunity I have expreſt the freedome of my ſoule and gratefull acknowledgment of your favours, therefore unleſſe you pleaſe to give mee ſome encouragement that I may hope the continuance of your friendſhip, and that I am not altogether loſt in your opinion, I ſhall

ſhall make this the laſt troubleſome paper though ſent with an honeſt heart to ſalute you : excuſe my blunt reſolution and declare your ſelfe to him, that hath beene ambitious to weare the title of,

Your trve ſervant.

Anſwer.

SIr, I thought the friendſhip wee have concluded could not have admitted a haſtie cenſure or giddily beene miſconſtructed upon every triviall circumſtance: on my part it hath not beene violated ſince I am able to demonſtrate the neceſſity of my ſilence, but not this till you returne to your firſt temper, for where ſuſpi-

tions

tions are urged with so much severity, it is discretion to let the accuser take breath a while to coole himselfe. I haue not in mine owne sence found any such jelousie in friendship; for where I loved truely, I could take from my owne integrity to thinke I should merit a neglect: what curteſies I received from you, I haue gratefully acknowledged, and will not be unjuſt to my owne honour to extenuate them, yet I am confident they are not above the ability of my requitall: if you haue ſettled a reſolution to breake off our correſpondence, you will give me a juſt cauſe to bee a ſeparatiſt, who till you begin to be too much unfriendly, cannot be guilty of not loving you. Farewell, and write me what you will determine on me, whether I may continue,

Your true friend
as before. B. O.

A Letter to the anſwer above written.

SIr, where I have deſerved friendſhip, it is my wonder to meete neglect, for leſſe I cannot eſteeme it, that in all this time having ſuch convenience for your letters, I have not received one remembrance or commendations, I have examined my actions, and find not in the number of many which concerned you, one that with any Iuſtice you can accuſe, and therfore give me leave (for friendſhip being the trueſt and moſt ſtrict obligation of love is not without ſome jealouſie) to ſuſpect that you have diſ-ingaged your firſt affection, to plant it upon more promiſing merit, if

it

it be ſo, you ſhall not account my love a burthen, nor my viſit by letter your interruption. I was ever ready to embrace an ingenious man, but never ſo injuſt to my diſcretion and honour to court or flatter any one for his opinion; what I have beene towards you, you are not ignorant to diſtinguiſh; what I ſhall be is in your election to determine, and ſo I reſt,

Not unwilling to bee

continued yours.

SIr, I am requested by this Gentleman the bearer to give him my testimonie, who it seemes hath a desire to have a relation to you: I could not deny him this civill office, and I am glad for his owne sake to give you this encouragement, hee is a discreete young man, retyred, and diligent where hee is imployed, curteous, and of a soft disposition, not apt to give offence, witty in his discourse, and one that hath given many arguments of a generous education: in briefe one worthy of your cherishing, my respects to him are much beneath my obligation to your selfe, whom it were ridiculous in mee to deceive; I have delivered my knowledge and opinion of him, and let mee forfeit your love, if I faile in my present Character, so re-

ferring him to your owne examination, with the tender of my service, I rest.

Yours. W. S.

SIr, I am a ſtranger to you, and compelled by my preſent condition to beſeech your favour; my fortunes have beene long in their ebbe, and it is added to my other afflictions that I am a ſtranger; dangers are threatned, and I have no motion, but by priviledge of his Majeſties ſervice, my intentions are very honeſt, but if my Lord ſhould haſtily grant leave for my arreſt (which my adverſary hopeth to obtaine) I may languiſh in a priſon. I preſume deſignes of this nature are not perfected

fected without your knowledge, if when my ruine is petitioned, you make me happy with your memory, and prevention, you shall oblige a poore Gentleman to the greatest acknowledgement, who by this entertainment, shall bee encouraged to present his personall respects to you, and in the meane time, I rest,

Your humblest servant.

RIght honourable, I need not delare the circumſtances of my misfortune; I am moſt miſerable, and in this dejection implore your Lordſhips favour. I did owe my beſt and moſt fortunate condition to your honour: let my miſery now taſte of your compaſſion, I have humbly petitioned his Maieſty for my reſtoring, but cannot here how he inclines, make your poore ſervant happy in your mediation when your honour meeteth with opportunity; without mercy from his Maieſty I am utterly undone, you ſhall not enterpoſe your charity for one that is more devoted to doe you all faithfull ſervice, and ſo with the humbleſt tender of my duty and prayers for your Lordſhips encreaſe of honour and felicity, I take leave,

Your moſt diſtreſſed ſervant.

MY Lord, I owe double duty to your goodneſſe, the one I ſhall ever pay in my ſervice and gratefull acknowledgment of your ſo many honourable favours, the other is, to be confident you cannot loſe any ſweetneſſe of your ſoule and nature; I am compelled by my preſent condition, to begge your Lordſhip ſhould remember a poore exile. My offence to her Ladiſhiphath fild my heart with teares; and might I be ſo happy, by your gratious mediation, to recover my ordinary employment, my care ſhould be ſo religious to pleaſe my Noble Miſtreſſe, that my fault, for which I now juſtly ſuffer, ſhall not hereafter bee remembred to accuſe me, but to ſet of my obedience. I am now moſt miſerable, and

can apply no comfort, but what my hope would derive from your mercy, which flowes to all, proceed to engage (among many that have iuſt obligation) my devout prayers for your Lordſhip: live to enioy the perfection of his Majeſtis Royall fauour, and when you are weary, and full of yeeres bee tranſlated to change this happineſſe for eternity.

Yours honours moſt humble and faithfull ſervant.

I. S.

RIght Honourable, I hope it cannot bee diſpleaſing to your Lordſhip, if the feeling of my owne miſery bee my argugument to put your honour in mind of humble ſuite, I am confident your Lordſhip will bee firme to your honourable promiſe, but in the multitude of your affaires and of more neceſſary conſequence, that continually importune their diſpatch, I am encouraged to thinke in my owne deſigne, it will become my duty to be your remembrancer; I beſeech you, good my Lord, continue ſtill your honourable favour, to a poore Gentleman, whoſe ſpirit ſtill growneth his fall and hath his moſt comfortable expectation of raiſing from your noble mediation, in the meane prayes for your

Lordship, who dedicates himselfe to your honour,

A faithfull and most humble Servant.

RIght Honourable, in the depth of my affliction, I remember your excellent and religious nature, and am encouraged to beseech your honourable favour; I am not ignorant, your vertues, have justly confirmed your grace, with the most royall of Mistresses, O let my misery excite your noble pitty and mediation to her Maiesty, to whom I intend to be an humble petitioner for my restoring; I ever had a heart full of obedience to your honour, and cannot bee comfortlesse till I dispaire of your mercy which

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to all hath ever flowed, upon occaſion of diſtreſſe, tis in your honours power to make your poore dejected ſervant happy again, and lay an obligation upon my ſoule to honour and bleſſe the time that you take compaſſion upon mee: your honour ſhall not be gratious to one, ſhall more devoutly pray for you, or whoſe reſolution ſhall be more firme to doe you all humble and faithfull ſervice, and ſo in the dutifull acknowledgement of all your honourable favours, I take leave with ambition, to profeſſe my ſelfe,

Yours honours moſt humble Creature.

MAdam, I preſume upon the nobleneſſe of your nature and diſpoſition by this unworthy letter, to beſeech your compaſſion to a poore baniſhed woman, the miſeries I have ſuffered are infinite, and the wants of neceſſityes that threatnen me every day doe even wound my ſpirit, neither have I any hope, to know one houre of comfort, if you ſhut me from your mercy; I doe acknowledge my great and high offence to Her Ladiſhip, and my heart dayly weepeth many teares to remember it, I muſt likewiſe confeſſe, in that happineſſe of employment under my noble Lady, I have not beene ſo humble as became mee, and in particular cannot purge my ſelfe, but with my ſorrow and repen-

repentance, for not honouring you, that firſt rayſed me, with that true obedience which your many and high favours deſerved; but forgive me I beſeech you, and let not my ſinne deſtroy your charity. I know it is in your power to reſtore me to a new life, ſo much hath your vertue deſerved with the beſt and moſt Noble of Ladies. O looke with pitty upon my afflictions, and with your mediation, to Her renew mee to be your faithfull ſervant and trueſt creature: God Almighty knowes with what religious endeavours I ſtudy to deſtroy the mention of my former carriage and turne a new woman, looke upon me and vouchſafe mee your charitable hand, which may plucke mee out of the waters which doe threaten

to

to drowne mee, I ſhall obliege my ſoule for ever to pray for you, and to acknowledge you and God the preſerver of the now moſt diſtreſſed and miſerable woman in the whole world.

Sir,

SIr, Theſe lines traced with my hand, are to beſeech you, to honour me with yours, and to confirme a new unto you the firme purpoſe I have conceived in my ſoule, which is a perfect will to live ever,

Yours.

SIr, This duty ſhall confirme unto you others which I deſire to performe, in doing you ſervice with this requeſt, that you bee pleaſed to preſerve me ever in your remembrance, as one that will never affect any other merit than that of obeying you, that I may be eſteemed of you,

The moſt obedient of your ſervants.

SIr, The passionate desire I have to doe you service hath imboldned me to put penne to paper, to beseech you to favour this my friend; the subiect is small, but the acknowledgement therof shall be great; I will therefore expect it from your courtesie, as you may justly looke for all sorts of services from my duty, seeing I am truely,

Your most humble servant.

SIr, I am so farre destined to obey you, that I never had a more passionate desire within my soule; endeavour therefore my content (I pray you) in using often my services: for they are yours, I give them you, reserving onely to my selfe the honour

nour of exploying them, which in what place ſoever I be, will ever make me appeare to be,

Yours moſt humble.

SIr your requeſts have beene effected, and conſequently my deſires accompliſhed, the one depending on the other, for the leaſt of your pleaſures ſhall ever bee my contentment. Spare not then my ſervices for to obey you, and although they bee unworth your command, yet at leaſt remember they proceed,

Sir, from your moſt humble ſervant.

Sir,

SIr, if you have beene depriued of my letters, you have not beene of my remembrance, but if the want of opportunity can excuſe me, my good will may give you ſatisfaction, and indeed I had none other newes to write unto you, but that I am ever,

Yours.

A Letter of acknowledgement.

SIr, With what devoires ſhall I acknowledge your courteſies, which have ſo much obliged me, that the beſt way to expreſſe it is to be ſilent? to offer unto my ſervices, they are vowed you already, to preſent unto you

my ſelfe, I am already yours. I have nothing then but my good will for your ſatisfaction, yet a thouſand ſervices for your obedience, being ever,

Your moſt humble ſervant.

SIr, Reaſon teacheth mee to honour your merits, and duty to acknowledge your courteſies, which have too much obliged mee, to bee ungratefull, though I can never worthily ſatisfie for them, but I ſhall ever have at leaſt a deſire and a hope, and in the meane while a firme will to live and dye,

Yours.

Sir,

SIr, You take pleaſure ever to obliege thoſe unto you, which are already moſt in your debt. I am witneſſe of it, and your courteſie is the experience: So that I am aſhamed to be ever ſtill your obliged, without having ſo much as hope to bee able ever to requite the favour of it: yet notwithſtanding, if a fervent paſſion perfectly zealous for your ſervice, can ſatisfie you for my defects, accept it I beſeech you, ſeeing it proceedeth from,

Your moſt humble.

To

To a ſicke friend.

SIr, being certified of your ſickneſſe, I was aſſured of my evill, ſeeing the leaſt of your ſufferings is to me an extreme diſpleaſure. Now if my prayers may any thing prevaile for your health, and conſequently for my eaſing, you ſhall very ſoone be well; and I contented, who am,

Your moſt humble.

A farewell to a friend, upon the neceſsity of a voyage.

SIr, An irkeſome neceſſity deriveth me for a long time of the honour of your preſence (but not without greefe) for your converſation is ſo much to my liking, that I have ever preferred it before all ſorts of pleaſures; iudge you now then, if ſeparated from you, I can live content: but however it be, I muſt endure this evill, ſeeing it is neceſſary for my good. In the meane time remember, that I will never forget you, and that in what place ſoeuer I am, I will ever make it appeare that I am,

Yours.

To his Miſtreſſe.

GEntlewoman, when toge-ther with your beauty I had knowledge of your merits, I felt ſome ſecret power, that ſweetly enforced my will to honour you, and my heart to breath forth nothing but your love If ſo be then my ſervices, the integrity of which Heaven hath reſerved for your commands, be never ſo little acceptable unto you, permit (I beſeech you) that I honour my ſelfe with the title of,

Your humble ſervant.

IF love did teach me as well to speake my torment, as to suffer it, pitty would make you sensible of my complaints; but being dumb by too much enduring, I have nothing but my constancy for my remedy and for my hope; your sweetnesse, for my desire; and your commandements for my honour, as being,

Your most humble servant.

The lover to his Lady after long abſence.

ALas my Lover, the long abſence of your perſon, hath given me ſo great paſſions and ſorrowes, that had it not beene for feare of the grievous anguiſh that you would have ſuſtained through my death, I had been buried long agoe, and ſo deprived of the greateſt goodneſſe that could have chanced unto mee, that is, to inioy the ſight of you. Ah, mine eyes are not you to blame thus to draw out (by force of weeping) the little humour wherewith my heauy heart doth nouriſh it ſelfe con-

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considering my returne unto her, for whose service onely my spirit is content to be resident in this painefull heart? Yet though you should have had no hope to see her again, yet have you had more goodnesse (through the favour that she hath shewed unto you in times past) then ever you deserved. And further, you may be rightly assured, that so constant is her subtilty, that for any accident or chance that shall happen unto her, shee (seeing in her heare my fidelity) cannot vary, and such is it, that I had farre rather die a thousand deaths, then once to loose her good grace, &c.

A

A certaine lover writeth unto his Lady.

MY Deare, sith the gentle Emperour of the Firmament, withall his study (as plainely appeareth) hath vouchsafed to adorne you with heavenly and with royall behaviour: who then doubteth but that you are pleasant, pittifull, gentle and gratious: Certes none. And for that in your faire forhead and shining eyes, love sheweth it selfe apparelled with liberality, therefore have these things emboldned my halfe alive heart (now of long time linked unto you with ardent

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sighes) to say with mazed mind, these few unadorned words, which shall be the secret messengers of mee your assured Servitour, humbly therefore requesting you not to deny me your sweet love, whereupon continually cogitating both day and night, I am forced effsoones to record and call upon your pleasant and most delectable name, from which I expect comfortable succour. No more, but that I still attend to receive from your clemency, gentle, favourable and convenient answer.

A Lady

A Lover requesteth his Ladies loue.

COnsidering (my soueraigne joy) the great vertues of nobility, beauty, and courtesie, wherewith nature by superaboundant measure hath in such sort adorned you, that above all other terrestriall bodies, you are judged by common voice to obtaine the Crowne and Principality: and on the other side waying the want and insufficiency of my former service, towards you, my trembling hand is scarce able to hold my pen, neither dare my stammering tongue expresse that which the affec-

cted heart through ardent ap-
petite desireth to manifest un-
to you. Yet love (which above
all animateth creatures,) hol-
deth in his domination my
inflamed heart, doth so ex-
ceed, that it giveth me doubt-
full boldnesse to take in hand
to open unto you the secrets
of my brest: which is to doe
you to understand, that ever
sithence mine eyes did specu-
late and behold your great
beauty, my heart hath remai-
ned so bound and intangled,
that of his owne free will, it
is in chosen to be included in
your sweet prison. By reason
whereof, and seeing the vexa-
tions, and grievous passions of
my languishing corpes, caused
through

through the sweet regard of your eyes, and augmented by the great eclipsation of your absence, I am constrained to employ and demaund your aid and succour. And because you are shee, who onely and none other, may send remedy in this case. I therefore most humbly pray & request you, that even as in all other vertues you are sovereigne, so likewise in this matter you would shew your selfe charitable & pitiful. And sith you are the cause of this so great and grievous martyrdome, & that you only may help, & remedy it, extēd unto me a perfect remedy, by sending a benign answer, that which I can effectuously desire and attend

The answer of his dy.

MY troubled thought so discordeth from your fond affection, that I cannot marvell enough to imagine what fond cause moved you, and gave you such presumptuous boldness, as to trouble and interrupt me of mine accustomed rest, through your abominable letters and wanton words. Your said letters (to the end that they should not come unto the hands of an other person) I have received and beholding the contents thereof, with great paine could I bridle mine ire, and with-

withhold my selfe from tea-
ring them in pieces. But con-
sidering that such [illegible] is not
to be imputed [illegible] the Let-
ters, (which are insensible) but
unto the composer and
writer of them, I therefore
refrained, giving him speciall
charge, not thenceforth to re-
turn unto me with any such
message. And to the end you
shall not presume to continue
any longer in this suite, un-
[illegible] yee, that I am not
[illegible] whom such abusive
letters should be sent. I have
though good (contrary to
mine accustomed manner) to
write unto you at this present
that my spirit with much a
doe can scarce abide to finish,
through

[illegible] great offence that [illegible] ng you, that [illegible] ny longer in [illegible] shall doe unto [illegible] pleasant things [illegible] selfe shall pur- [illegible] d evident da- mage. [illegible] ore I pray you (for the avoiding of all these inconveniences) that you will condiscend unto my re- quest, and so doing, you shall doe me a singular pleasure.

FINIS.